and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for providing rehabilitation services and fitment/distribution of aids and appliances to the PWDs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Outreach programme is one of the major activities of the Institute through which rehabilitation services are provided to the persons with disabilities who are residing in rural and remote areas.

The Institute has planned a number of identification and distribution camps through DDRCs and CRC at Srinagar to further its outreach services. Many DDRCs *viz.,* Ranchi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tejpur, Dimapur, Shillong etc. are located in predominantly tribal districts.

Scheme for the elderly persons

1115. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether October 1st of every year is observed as the International Day for elderly people in India;

(b) if so, the manner in which this day has been celebrated this year;

(c) whether Government are running some grant-in-aid schemes for the elder persons;

(d) if so, the details and salient features thereof;

(e) whether Government have set up a National Council for the Elder Persons to advise and assist Government on policies and programmes for elder persons;

(f) if so, its composition and terms of reference; and

(g) what is the future plan of action for welfare of the elder persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A "Walk for Health" was organized in New Delhi in which more than 2500 senior citizens had participated. Messages from the President, Prime Minister, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment

were published in the leading newspapers of the country. Further, eleven distinguished senior citizens were felicitated with "Chirayush Samman" (wishing elders long life) by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment for their contribution in different walks of life. Besides, all State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations had been requested to celebrate the International Day for Older Persons, through holding of appropriate programmes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is running two grant-in-aid schemes, namely, (i) "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" under which financial assistance is given to the Non-Governmental Organisations for running old age homes, day care centres and mobile medicare units; and (ii) "Scheme of assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for construction of old age homes/muiti service centers for older persons", under which financial assistance is given to the Non-Governmental Organisations for construction of old age homes.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(0 At present, there are 81 members in the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) with the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment as its Chairperson.

The terms of reference of the NCOP are:

i) Advise the Government on policies and programmes for older persons.

ii) Provide feedback to the Government on the implementation of the NCOP as well as on specific programme initiatives for older persons.

Hi) Advocate the best interest of older persons.

iv) Provide a nodal point at the national level for redressing the grievances of older persons which are of an individual nature.

v) Lobby for concessions, rebates and discounts for older persons both with the Government as well as with the corporate sector.

vi) Represent the collective opinion of older persons to the Government

vii) Suggest steps to make old age productive and interesting.

viii) Suggest measures to enhance the quality of inter-generation relationships best interests of older persons.

(g) The future plan of action is to expand the number and area coverage of the schemes meant for the welfare of older persons.

Reservation for SC/ST/OBCs in private sector

1116. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of bringing a legislation to provide reservation for SC/ST/OBCs in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) According to the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government has to initiate a national dialogue with all political parties, industries and other organisations to see how best the private sector can fulful the aspirations of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe youth. Accordingly, 218 organisations of the industry and trade in the corporate world have been addressed to elicit their views/comments on affirmative action including reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector. However, no enactments proposed.

Resources to disabled persons in Chhattisgarh

†1117. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals are under Government's consideration to provide essential resources and services to the disabled persons in Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.